

DRAFT

Sustainability Committee
Minutes of Meeting
March 9, 2016

Present: Lynn Stoddard, Kristin Schwab, Rich Miller, George Rawitscher, Joyce Rawitscher, Paul Shapiro (6:45 pm), Janell Mullen (guest), Virginia Walton (staff)

The meeting was called to order at 5:33 pm by chairperson Stoddard. Introductions were made.

The approval of the February 3, 2016 meeting minutes were deferred until there is a meeting quorum.

Zoning agent, Janell Mullen, discussed the draft amendments to the zoning regulations. In part because of feedback from the sustainability committee, the proposed sustainability point system will most likely be replaced with a laundry list to choose from based on the scale of a project. Mullen suggested that they want to have a framework in place to make sure that best practices are not bypassed. Staff will ask for feedback from the sustainability committee as the conceptual issues around the zoning regulations are addressed.

Rich Miller gave a presentation on the December 2015 Paris climate conference, called COP21, that was attended by twelve UConn students representing different disciplines and UConn staff. The University supported sending the group through sponsorships from a number of colleges. This was a rich experience for the group – the greatest value was the interdisciplinary networking each morning before attending the public events. Miller stated that higher education should have more of a presence at these kinds of event. It was a watershed conference with an agreement adopted by acclamation that includes China and the United States. Countries will report back on their progress every five year. Each of the participating students is required to complete a project. One student has a radio show, for instance, but some of the students are having difficulty getting them to focus on their projects.

Walton reported that an RFP for solar installations at the landfill, parking garage and other municipal locations has been issued. Responses are due mid-March in time for the ZREC deadline. Stoddard stated that there was a solid show of interest for the shared solar forum held in the Mansfield Council Chamber on March 3, 2016.

Rawitscher reported that the climate action task force will be ranking the climate related actions from the Mansfield Tomorrow Plan at its March meeting. Once completed, it will be forwarded to the sustainability committee. Miller requested a copy of the action items.

Shapiro discussed UConn's proposal to purchase the EO Smith campus. The proceeds would be used to relocate the new high school at the University's Depot Campus on Route 44. Region 19 wants to put this on the fall ballot. In order for it to pass, all three towns must approve it. Shapiro expects public comment during the March 14 council meeting.

Schwab asked that the SITES initiative be on a future meeting agenda.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Walton